

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 ACDA-05

BIB-01 /077 W

----- 121211

R 311700Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6793

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION US BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

SHAPE/USNMR

USDEL USSC GENEVA

USIA WASHDC

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA UNN

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD
GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE
SHAPE FOR POLAD
USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. GDS
TAGS PFOR, PARM, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON SALT-II

REF: A. MOSCOW 19177; B. MOSCOW 0205

1. SUMMARY. A SIGNED IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ON THE OPENING OF SALT-II IN GENEVA SAYS THAT "SIGNIFICANT NEW STEPS" IN ARMS CONTROL ARE A "VITAL NECESSITY" FOR THE USSR AND THE U.S. THE COMMENTARY CLAIMS THAT THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT IS THE BEST THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED UNDER PRESENT CIRCUSSTANCES, AND DRAWS ATTENTION TO FACT THAT IT HOLDS OUT PROSPECTS FOR REDUCTIONS IN THE FUTURE. OTHER COMMENTARY AND REPORTING IN THE SOVIET PRESS HAS ALSO BEEN DRAWING ATTENTION TO POSSIBLE FUTURE REDUCTIONS. THE IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY MAKES CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THESE REDUCTIONS CAN COME ONLY AFTER A SALT-II AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD HAS BEEN REACHED. THE SOVIET PRESS IN THE PAST TEN DAYS HAS BEEN MAKING EXTENSIVE USE OF THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD AND PROSPECTS FOR SALT-II TO SHOW UNDERLYING SOLIDITY OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND THE OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE OF THE TWO NATIONS' COMMON INTERESTS. END COMMENTARY.

2. BORIS DMITRIYEV, IN A COMMENTARY IN THE JANUARY 30 IZVESTIYA, CONTENDS THAT "SIGNIFICANT NEW STEPS" TOWARD ARMS REDUCTIONS ARE VITAL FOR THE USSR AND THE U.S. THE VLADIVOSTOK "MANDATE" UPON WHICH NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE BASED IS THE RESULT OF SCRUPUOIOUS ATTENDANCE TO ALL FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE QUESTION, AND REFLECTS AS ACCURATELY AND AS JUSTLY AS POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE DEMAND OF BOTH COUNTRIES FOR EQUAL SECURITY. ALSO, HE CONTENDS, THE PROSPECTS FOR FUTHEER LIMITATIONS AND POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS RESULTING FROM NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN "NO LATER THAN 1980-81" CAN SERVE AS A STABILIZING FACTOR IN RELATIONS OVER THE LONG TERM. NOTING THE "WHOLE SERIES" OF STATEMENTS EMANATING
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FROM WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE CONTINUITY OF U.S. POLICY VIS-A -VIS THE SOVIET UNION, DMITRIYEV CONTENDS THAT A "SIGNIFICANT PART" OF THOSE IN U.S. POLITICAL CIRCLES SUPPORT THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD. HE ALSO COMMENTS ON THE KENNEDY-MONDALE-MATHIAS RESOLUTION, DESCRIBING IT AS DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO " REACH FURTHER LIMITATIONS AND REDUCTIONS/ IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR.

3. A SERIES OF COMMENTARIES AND REPORTS ON SALT AND THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD IN THE PAST WEEK HAVE ALSO DRAWN ATTENTION NOT ONLY TO THE LATTER'S PROMISE OF LIMITATIONS ON WEAPONRY, BUT ON THE CHANCES IT HOLDS OUT FOR REDUCTIONS AS WELL. ZA RUBEZHOM, IN AN UNSIGNED LEAD EDITORIAL ON JANUARY 24, POINTS OUT THAT A "GROUP OF SENATORS" (READ KENNEDY-MONDALE-MATHIAS) HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT " SHOULD LEAD TO FURTHER MUTUAL LIMITATIONS ON WEAPONS AND TO THEIR REDUCTION". TASS REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT LOS ANGELES STATED THAT HE ASCRIBED GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ACCORD "BECAUSE IT POSITS AS ITS GOAL REDUCTION OF THE STRATEGIC ARSENALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES." THE EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAM VREMYA ON JANUARY 129 CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR KENNEDY IN WHICH HE REFERRED TO THE DESIRABILITY OF REDUCTIONS. A SIGNED COMMENTARY BY N. KUDRYUMOV IN THE JANUARY 31 PRAVDA REPORTS, APPROVINGLY, AN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES YOST IN WHICH THE LATTER SAYS THAT THAT THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT DESERVES THE APPROBATION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EVEN THOUGH " IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER HAD THE UNDRRSTANDING GONE FURTHER IN A WHOLE SERIES OF QUESTIONS."

4. DMITRIYEV, IN THE COMMENTARY REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 ABOVE, MAKES IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS WANT AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT FIRST, WITH ANY REDUCTIONS TO FOLLOW IN SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

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SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 ACDA-05

BIB-01 /077 W

----- 125524

R 311700Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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HE CONTENTS THAT "REACTIONARY CIRCLES," INCLUDING SENATOR JACKSON, STILL ARGUE FOR REVISION OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT. HE THEN QUOTES FROM A US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT ARTICLE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFECT THAT THE SECRETARY HAS REFUSED "TO RETURN TO THE (VLADIVOSTOK) NEGOTIATING TABLE TO ACHIEVE A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE AGREED MAXIMUM NUMBERS, FOR TO DO SO WOULD BURDEN DETENTE AND FURTHER UNDERMINE BELIEF IN THE RELIABILITY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN THE EYES OF THE SOVIET LEADERS."

5. SOVIET COMMENTARY IN GENERAL HAS BEEN MAKING HEAVY USE OF THE HIGH VISIBILITY PUBLICITY VALUE OF THE SALT AGREEMENTS, PRESUMABLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRESSING THE UNDERLYING STABILITY OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND OF UNDERLINING THE BASIC COMMON INTERESTS AT STAKE IN THAT RELATIONSHIP. KURDYUMOV, FOR EXAMPLE, CLAIMS THAT THE KENNEDY-MONDALE-MATHIAS RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED NOW BECAUSE "AT THIS TIME OF DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONS THE SENATORS CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE ESPECIALLY THEIR ADVOCACY OF DETENTE AND... THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT."

6. THE PRESS, IN ITS BRIEF REFERENCES TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LATER REDUCTIONS BELOW THE LIMITS ESTABLISHED AT VLADIVOSTOK, HAS NOT GOTTEN INTO THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HOWEVER, IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH USA INSTITUTE OFFICIALS MIL'SHTEYN AND SVYATOV (REF A) IN DECEMBER, COMPENSATION FOR CHINESE POSSESSION OF

NUCLEAR WEAPONS DID COME UP. ADDITIONALLY, YURI ZHUKOV,
IN HIS TV APPEARACCE OF JANUARY 4 (REF B), ALSO REFERRED
TO COMPENSATION FOR UNNAMED THIRD-COUNTRY WEAPONS. IN EACH
CASE, HOWEVER, COMPENSATION WAS RAISED IN THE CONTEXT OF
REDUCTIONS TO FOLLOW THE SALT II AGREEMENT, NOT IN THE CONTEXT
OF NEGOTIATION O AGREEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW01439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750037-1105
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975013/aaaaabxk.tel
Line Count: 230
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 19177, 75 MOSCOW 0205
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET MEDIA ON SALT-II
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006